

A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE  
UNITED DISTRICTS OF SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE  
FOR THE YEAR 1939

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LIBRARY



To the Chairman and Members of the Joint Committee for the United Districts of South-West Cheshire.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

The routine work of the Public Health Departments has been affected to a considerable degree by the necessary measures for National Defence.

In the early part of the year much time was occupied in recruiting and training volunteers for the First Aid Services of the Air Raid Precautions Organisation. The results were most gratifying and the response such as to secure the enrolment of many more volunteers than were actually provided for in our war establishment.

The preliminary training of volunteers was followed by the establishment and equipment of First Aid Posts and Depots, and the allocation of volunteers to their individual duties.

In point of fact several successful large scale exercises of the A.R.P. services were held before the outbreak of hostilities in September.

Along with these schemes, detailed preparations were made for the reception of large numbers of mothers and children from Liverpool under the Evacuation programme of the Government.

This considerable task was successfully accomplished with the aid of the many volunteers who undertook the duties of billeting officers etc.

The efficiency of these preparations was demonstrated by the smoothness with which the reception and distribution of evacuees proceeded.

In addition to the influx of large numbers of children and adults from the danger zones at the outbreak of hostilities varying numbers of troops were billeted or encamped in the Rural Districts.

This artificial increase in the natural population of rural communities has added a strain on the sanitary resources of some districts especially where water supplies and sewerage systems are inadequate. The additional problem of infection has also exercised the attention of the Public Health Departments.



Fortunately during the latter part of the year infectious disease was not prevalent.

It is satisfactory to note that a scheme for the immunisation against Diphtheria of all children in both Rural Districts was put into operation at the beginning of the year; and it is hoped that this excellent measure of protection against a serious infectious disease will act as some safeguard to the increased risk of infection due to the presence of urban residents among the rural population.

I wish to thank the members and officials of the Chester and Tarvin Rural District Councils for their co-operation and assistance in carrying out the duties for which the Public Health departments were responsible during a difficult period.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,  
W.J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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#### POPULATION AND AREA OF THE COMBINED DISTRICT

Area	106,270 acres
Census Population, 1921	28,011
Census Population, 1931	28,906
Population, 1939 (According to Registrar General)	31,020

For Birth and Death rates vide respective Districts.

The Birth-rate for England and Wales for 1939 was 15.0 per 1,000 population, being a decrease of 0.1 compared with that for 1938.

The Death-rate was 12.1 per 1,000 population, an increase of 0.5 over the rate for 1938.

The Infant Mortality Rate, i.e., deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births was 50, a decrease of 3.0 compared with the rate for 1938.

#### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHHTHERIA.

The scheme for the voluntary immunisation of all children resident in the Chester and Tarvin Rural Districts between the ages of 1 and 15 years was put into operation at the beginning of the year.

The scheme has received the wholehearted co-operation of private doctors and has been appreciated by the majority of parents.

During the year 1939 the following numbers of children were immunised:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>under 5 years</u>	<u>aged 5-15</u>	<u>unknown</u>
Chester R.D.	187	55	83	49
Tarvin R.D.	554	50	504	-

These figures are encouraging, but are capable of further enlargement.





It is necessary again to draw attention to the fact that in a small percentage of cases the immunisation is apparently ineffective in so far as a small percentage of children subsequently suffer from Diphtheria, though usually in a modified and milder form.

The serum recommended for use is A.P.T. (Alum Precipitated Toxoid) in 2 injections, with a minimum of 2 weeks between each injection.

1st injection ..... 0.2 c.c.  
2nd injection ..... 0.5 c.c.

Parents of Children in the following Parishes took advantage of the scheme:-

<u>Chester Rural District.</u>		<u>Ages.</u>		<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Under Five</u>	<u>Over Five</u>			
Bache	2	1			3
Barrow	1	2			3
Christleton	6	2	8		16
Dodleston	1	1	9		11
Eccleston	3	1			4
Elton	1	3			4
Gt. Boughton	3	2	9		14
Gt. Saughall	2	14	3		19
Guilden Sutton	-	1			1
Hoole Village	1	2			3
Huntington	18	21			39
Littleton	4	1	2		7
Mickle Trafford	-	4	3		7
Mollington	1	1			2
Picton	-	2	3		5
Pulford	2	3	3		8
Thornton-le-Moors	1	11			12
Upton-by-Chester	8	8	9		25
Wimbolds Trafford	1	3			4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
	55	83	49		187

Tarvin Rural District.

Aldersey	1	16		17
Ashton	2	7		9
Barton	-	6		6
Beeston	5	27		32
Bolesworth	-	3		3
Broxton	-	16		16
Burwardsley	-	26		26
Carden	-	8		8
Clotton	-	9		9
Coddington	-	6		6
Duckington	-	2		2
Handley	2	33		35
Hargrave	8	26		34
Harthill	-	5		5
Hatton	2	7		9
Huxley	6	39		45
Kelsall	1	69		70
Newton-by-T'hall	1	6		7



		<u>Ages.</u>		
	<u>Under</u>	<u>Over Five</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Five</u>			
Shocklach	-	3		3
Tarvin	1	50		51
Tattenhall	15	102		117
Tilstone Fearnall	-	3		3
Tiverton	1	-		1
Waverton	4	31		35
Willington	1	4		5
	<u>50</u>	<u>504</u>		<u>554</u>

CHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

List of Parishes with Number of Houses at

31st December 1939.

<u>Parish.</u>	No of houses at 31/12/39.	No of houses built in 1939.
Aldford .....	91	-
Bache .....	9	-
Backford .....	32	-
Barrow .....	211	8
Bridge Trafford .....	12	1
Buerton .....	17	-
Capenhurst .....	38	-
Caughall .....	2	-
Chester Castle .....	1	-
Chorlton-by-Backford .....	19	-
Christleton .....	357	-
Churton Heath .....	3	-
Claverton .....	-	-
Croughton .....	6	-
Dodleston .....	73	3
Dunham-on-the-Hill .....	104	1
Eaton .....	19	-
Eccleston .....	79	1
Elton .....	99	6
Great Boughton .....	890	17
Great Saughall .....	251	-
Guilden Sutton .....	101	-
Hapsford .....	25	1
Hoole Village .....	58	1
Huntington .....	235	26
Lea-by-Backford .....	48	-
Lea Newbold .....	7	-
Ledsham .....	44	-
Littleton .....	148	11
Little Saughall .....	96	-
Little Stanney .....	75	-
Lower Kinnerton .....	28	-
Marlston-Cum-Lache .....	32	1
Mickle Trafford .....	76	-
Mollington .....	106	2
Moston .....	23	-
Picton .....	20	-
Poulton .....	29	-
Puddington .....	91	5
Pulford .....	75	1
Rowton .....	75	-
Saighton .....	74	-





<u>Parish.</u>	No of houses at 31/12/39.	No of houses built in 1939.
Shotwick .....	19	-
Shotwick Park .....	20	-
Stoke .....	20	-
Thornton-le-Moors.....	45	-
Upton-by-Chester .....	1,023	79
Wervin .....	24	-
Wimbolds Trafford .....	35	-
Woodbank .....	20	-
	<hr/> 4,985	<hr/> 164

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area .....	43, 677 acres
Census Population .....	<i>1931</i> 14, 518
Resident Population .....	<i>1939</i> 18, 500 (Registrar General's Estimate).
Number of houses built in 1939 .....	164

Rateable Value £112,354. Product of 1d. rate £440.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area, and the extension of unemployment.

The chief industry of the District is Dairy Farming.

The Parishes of Upton, Great Boughton and Huntington continued to develop residentially up to the declaration of hostilities.

Unemployment is not pronounced in the District, as a matter of fact the reverse is the case as farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain labour on the land; most of their labour is now being absorbed by factories in the adjoining areas.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1939.

	Total			M	F
Live (Legitimate)	257	...	...	117	140
Births (Illegitimate)	10	...	...	4	6

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 14.81.

Still (Legitimate)	7	...	...	5	2
Births (Illegitimate)	0	...	...	0	0

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 25.5.

Deaths:- Total 182, M. 98, F. 84.

Death rate per 1,000 population 9.83.

Using a comparability factor of .94 this gives a corrected death rate of 9.24.



Deaths:-

No. 29 - Puerperal Sepsis - Nil.  
No. 30 - Other puerperal causes - One.  
Total - One.

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

M F  
Total 5 7. Legitimate 10. Illegitimate 2.  
Infant mortality rate, i.e., per 1,000 live births - 44.9.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 24.  
Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.  
Deaths from Whooping Cough, Nil.  
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age, Nil.

Particulars of unusual or excessive mortality during the year:-

Heart Disease 26 males 26 females.  
Cancer 10 males 14 females.

Heart Disease deaths are equal to those of 1938.  
Cancer deaths are 3 more than in 1938.

Causes of Deaths.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
All Causes .....	98	84
Measles .....	0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	0	0
Whooping Cough .....	0	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0
Influenza .....	1	2
Tuberculosis .....	6	2
(Respiratory system)		
Tuberculosis .....	0	0
(non-respiratory system)		
General Paralysis .....	0	0
Cancer .....	10	14
Digestive Disorders .....	3	1
Nephritis .....	0	2
Puerperal Diseases .....	0	1
Premature Birth etc. ....	1	5
Senility .....	4	4
Suicide .....	1	0
Other Violence .....	11	3
Other defined diseases .....	7	3
Diabetes .....	0	0
Liver Diseases .....	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	5	5
Heart Disease .....	26	26
Other circulatory Diseases .....	3	5
Bronchitis .....	2	3
Pneumonia .....	13	7
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	1	1
Peptic Ulcer .....	1	0
Diarrhoea .....	0	0
(Under 2 years of age)		
Appendicitis .....	3	0





## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services.

#### (a) Laboratory facilities.

The services of the Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary, are utilised for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

#### (b) Ambulance facilities.

Infectious diseases are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital under the control of the Wirral Joint Hospital Board, by the Hospital Ambulances.

Accident and Sick cases are dealt with by the Chester City Ambulances.

Other cases of sickness are removed to the County General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by ambulances attached to the Hospital.

#### (c) Nursing in the Home.

Home Nursing in the Rural District is undertaken at present in certain cases by arrangement with the Chester Nursing Association. Negotiations are proceeding to secure a comprehensive scheme of home nursing throughout the District.

#### (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinics solely for Diagnosis or consultation.

The County Council Clinics are available for residents in the area at:-

(a) Hoole - Ante-Natal and Child Welfare.

(b) Chester - Orthopaedic.

(c) Doddleston Home - Instituted by the Chester Rural District Council as a "Sick Bay" for Evacuee children.

#### (e) Hospitals; Public and Voluntary.

The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the rural district.

Large voluntary and special hospitals are also accessible in Chester and Liverpool respectively.

### Officers:

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. W.J. Birchall M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector Cleaving Superintendent and Meat Inspector.	Mr. H.E. Stone, M.S.I.A., R.S.I., and Joint Board Certificate for Sanitary Inspector. Liverpool University Certificates for Sanitary Knowledge and Meat and Other Foods. Cambridge University Certificates.
Assistant Meat Inspector.	Mr. S. Southern, A.M.S.I.A., Liverpool University Certificate for Meat and Other Foods.
Building Surveyor and Valuer.	Mr. C.J.F. Owen.





## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Water. The whole of the District comprising 50 Parishes has now a piped supply available with the exception of the Parish of Claverton which is without any dwellings, and the Brown Heath portion of the Parish of Christleton, but here plenty of water of a satisfactory standard is available from wells. It is, however, hoped that on cessation of hostilities a piped supply will be made available.

The undertakers supplying the District are The West Cheshire Water Board, The Chester Waterworks Company, and The Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company, in addition to your own borehole at Plemstall.

Throughout the year the supply has been satisfactorily maintained and periodic samples that have been taken for Chemical Analysis, show the various supplies to be of a satisfactory quality.

It is found that the water from the borehole at Plemstall is somewhat hard and is causing furring up of pipes so that it will be necessary for the question of providing a Softening plant to be discussed.

Since the inauguration of your own pipe lines, the number of applications for a supply from this source have been heartening, 113 connections having been made during the year under review.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

Huntington. With the advent of War and its necessary attendant preparations, a Militia Camp has been erected at Saughton Lane. Sewerage and drainage facilities have been made available for this Camp by the extension of the Sewer so recently laid.

Littleton. The Tarvin Road Section of the sewerage scheme for this Parish is now well advanced but it may be some time before it can be utilized owing to the difficulty being experienced in receiving delivery of the necessary machinery and pumping plant, but it is a consolation to know that this scheme will be completed.

Great Boughton. It is to be deplored that the obstacles in the way of providing sewerage facilities for the Piper's Ash area of this Parish have not been surmounted and now that hostilities are upon us, this much needed scheme must apparently be allowed to fall into a deep swoon if not actually die a natural death.

Great and Little Saughall. Here are two Parishes which are, apparently doomed to disappointment owing to the war. Three times now, schemes have been prepared and approved for supplying these Parishes with a most urgent need and three times they have been postponed.

The present system of sewerage disposal for the Parish of Great Saughall, a converted surface water drain discharging to a small Septic Tank, which is totally inadequate for the quantity of sewerage delivered is to be deplored, and efforts should be made to allow the scheme recently approved to be proceeded with, War or no War.

Barrow. Once again "hold up" is the pass word, another scheme shelved and at a time when every facility should be afforded by the Prosecution of Public Health works.



Christleton. A sewerage scheme has been formulated to serve the Brown Heath area of this Parish and to absorb part of the Parish of Waverton in the area of the Tarvin Rural District and the Moor Lane area of Rowton. More hold up of the long felt want.

Rivers and Streams. Steps have been taken to prevent the pollution of certain streams in the District.

Public Cleansing. This service is increasing in so far as Parishes served are concerned, household refuse being removed once each week, fortnight, or month as set out in the following statement:-

<u>Weekly.</u>	<u>Fortnightly.</u>	<u>Monthly.</u>
Great Boughton. Upton and Bache.	Huntington.	Barrow. Dunham Hill. Guilden Sutton. Hoole Village. Lea-by-Backford. Marlston-cum-Lache. Mickle Trafford. Puddington. Stoke. Elton.

whilst the following Parishes are scavenged by Contract:-

<u>Fortnightly.</u>	<u>Monthly.</u>
Christleton. Littleton.	Rowton. Great Saughall. Saughton.

The refuse is deposited on Tips as Upton, Great Boughton. and Christleton, all of which are controlled.

One cubic yard capacity lorry is provided to scavenge all the Parishes cleansed by direct labour, and the service has now reached such proportions as to warrant the provision of a further lorry, by which means the whole District could be scavenged, giving a weekly collection to the most thickly populated Parishes, and a fortnightly collection to the less populated Parishes.

Shops. There are no shops in your district which employ labour, and it has not been necessary to take any action under the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature or the provision of Sanitary Conveniences.

Smoke Abatement. No observations have been made during the past 12 months.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public situate in your District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. It has not been necessary for action to be taken to rid any premises of bed bugs during the past twelve months.

Evacuation. This was carried out on 1st and 3rd September. 1,131 School children and 99 Teachers and helpers were received from Liverpool on the first day, whilst 10 Mothers and 15 children were received on the 3rd, out of a total of 1,185 school children and unaccompanied children expected.







The business of dispersal and billeting went off very smoothly but trouble was soon forthcoming in the way of verminous children, skin affect~~ions~~ions and filthy habits.

This necessitated the opening of a "Sick Bay" and Dodleston Home was procured and equipped for the purpose, being in service on 25th September. From that date to 31st December, 41 children were treated for Incontinence, Scabies and Impetigo.

Every credit must be given to all concerned with the reception and billeting of the Evacuees. The smoothness and ease with which it was all carried out reflects considerable credit on the organizing abilities of the Billeting Officers concerned, though due to last minute alterations a lot of the good work prepared by a number of Billeting Officers had to be cancelled.

Special mention must be made of the extremely hard and successful work put in at the "Sick Bay" by the Matron who for the whole of the period under review worked and attended to the patients personally, owing to the fact that satisfactory assistance was not procurable.

Schools. The sanitary conditions and water supply of Schools in the District remain satisfactory.

During the year the Cheshire County Council School at Elton was closed, due to an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, for 10 days, during which time the premises were thoroughly disinfected.

The Church of England School at Little Stanney was also thoroughly disinfected during one week-end in an endeavour to allay a spread of Influenza.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

With the outbreak of War and the imposing of national emergency regulations, Building operations came to a standstill.

Early in the year a complete survey of the District was carried out under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1938, which revealed that 256 houses for agricultural labourers are required, and in view of this requirement being one of such vital national importance it would be advisable to pursue this requirement with a view to at least part being relieved if not all.

Prior to the outbreak of hostilities, building was proceeding at a pleasing rate as 164 houses were built during the months of January to August.

Under the Housing Act 1936, you completed 7 schemes accommodating 49 houses during 1939; there still remains, however, the Woodbank and Great Saughall schemes to be completed, the former comprising 12 houses and the latter 22 houses.

The Woodbank scheme was under construction at the outbreak of hostilities and two pairs were allowed to proceed but owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining labour and materials, progress has been very slow, but it is hoped these properties will be finished early in 1940 and that the possibility of completing the scheme will materialize.



Inspections were made of 67 houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts involving 166 visits.

In addition 6 houses were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. In respect of these an undertaking to convert three of the houses into two and to carry out certain essential repairs was accepted by you, but this work is now held up owing to the outbreak of hostilities. A further 57 houses were inspected, which were found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation, and in most of these the repairs have been carried out.

Housing Act. 1936. Sections 11 & 13.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of - houses and 25 houses were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.

Under Section 12 proceedings were taken in respect of part of a house which has been closed for human habitation, such Closing Order not having been determined.





## SECTION E.

1. (a). Milk Supply. Early in the year a survey of every Farm in the District was carried out, this entailed visits to 462 Farms; in addition there are 39 Dairies and 7 Milk Shops.

Inspections of all Farm premises are carried out at irregular intervals and it is with satisfaction I have to report that the standard of cleanliness and production has improved and a good standard milk maintained.

Sampling is still undertaken by the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. No reports of dirty milk have been received during the past twelve months.

Meat and Other Foods. No further Slaughterhouses have been licensed in your District during the past twelve months. There are 17 Registered and Licensed Slaughterhouses, which are used regularly for the purposes of Slaughter, of which 13 are visited daily and the remaining 4 once each week.

During the year 20,660 carcasses have been inspected comprised of 2,162 beasts, 284 calves, 8,607 sheep and 9,607 pigs. Condemnations were made in respect of 208 whole carcasses, whilst parts of 1,198 carcasses were condemned. All condemnations are suitably destroyed.

The following statement will give particulars of Meat Slaughtering and Inspections carried out:-

### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total.
Number Killed	2162	284	8607	9607	20660
Number inspected	2162	284	8607	9607	20660
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned.	7	9	10	124	150
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	129	3	92	43	267
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	6.29	4.23	1.19	1.74	
Tuberculosis only :- Whole carcasses condemned.	42	2	--	14	58
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	180	--	--	751	931
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	10.27	0.7	--	7.96	

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933. A number of Licences to Act Slaughterman expired this year and new Licences have been issued to 47 persons. The Licences hold good for a period of three years.





# SECTION F.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>
Scarlet Fever.....	48	34
Diphtheria.....	44	25
Enteric Fever..... (including Paratyphoid)	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	-
Pneumonia.....	18	-
Polio Myelites.....	1	-
Erysipelas.....	13	1
Measles.....	10	-
Whooping Cough.....	5	-

### Tuberculosis.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15.....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25.....	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-
35.....	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
45.....	3	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
55.....	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	5	8	2	-	6	2	-	-



LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE RURAL DISTRICT  
OF CHESTER DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1939

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Name of Sample.	Number obtained	No. adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Almonds-Ground	1	-
Boracic Ointment	1	-
Brawn	1	-
Cascara Sagrada Tabs.	1	-
Cheese-Cheshire	2	-
Coffee	1	-
Fish Paste	1	-
Ginger-Ground	1	-
Honey	1	-
Milk	16	6
Pickles	1	-
Raisins	1	-
	<hr/> 28 <hr/>	<hr/> 6 <hr/>

CHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

ADULTERATED OR NON-STANDARD SAMPLES.

Milk	Contains 7.2% of extraneous water.	Seller fined £3. 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £2. 1s. 6d. costs.
"	36% deficient in fat.	"Appeal-to-one-cow" re sample taken in another area. (Herd genuine).
"	3% deficient in non-fatty solids.	Seller cautioned.
"	Contains 1.5% of extraneous water.	" "
"	6% deficient in fat.	" "
"	Contains 4.8% of extraneous water.	" "

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O B S E R V A T I O N S

The results of analysis of all samples other than milk are highly satisfactory, but the very high percentage of non-standard milk samples leaves much to be desired.

It will be noticed from the table of "Adulterated or Non-Standard Samples" that in three cases varying amounts of water had been added to the milk, and although any addition of water, however small, is a serious matter, it was not felt necessary to place the facts in two of the cases before the Justices. In one instance, however, the amount of water present was too large to be dealt with by a caution and such case resulted in the infliction of a heavy penalty in fine and costs.





The sample shown as 36% deficient in fat is interesting inasmuch that it was obtained from one cow only; but the milk from the rest of the herd was genuine. This "appeal to cow" was taken in following up a deficiency found in a sample obtained in the Hoole Urban District. Of course, it must be remembered that no legal action can be taken against a farmer on account of an "appeal to cow" sample, no matter how poor it is.

In the remaining two cases cautionary letters were sent to the traders concerned.

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The above report has been kindly sent by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, Cheshire County Council.



A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1939

T A R V I N   R U R A L   D I S T R I C T.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	62,593 acres
Census Population, 1931	14,388
Census Population, 1939	16,010 (including 1819 Evacuees).
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books	4,013
Number of houses built in 1939	62
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1939	£68,182
Product of 1d Rate   "   "   "	£277. 6s. 9d.

The area is chiefly agricultural and residential, dairy farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries, and the amount of unemployment is very small.

Number of Inhabited Houses at 31st December, 1939.

	No. of houses at 31.12.39	Houses built during 1939.
Agden	18	-
Aldersey	21	-
Ashton	111	-
Barton	21	-
Beeston	66	1
Bickley	84	-
Bradley	30	-
Broxton	122	1
Bruen Stapleford	26	-
Burton-by-Tarporley	21	-
Burwardsley	86	-
Caldecott	9	-
Carden	32	-
Cotton Abbots	1	-
Cotton Edmunds	10	-
Chidlow	2	-
Chorlton	23	-
Chowley	13	-
Churton-by-Aldford	52	-
Churton-by-Farndon	39	-





	No. of houses at 31.12.39	Houses built during 1939.
Clotton Hoofield	93	-
Clutton	18	-
Coddington	25	-
Crewe-by-Farndon	11	-
Cuddington	63	-
Duckington	20	-
Duddon	53	-
Edge	68	-
Edgerley	2	-
Farndon	214	17
Foulk Stapleford	47	-
Golborn Bellow	21	-
Golborn David	19	-
Grafton	1	-
Hampton	100	1
Handley	77	-
Harthill	26	-
Hatton	39	-
Hockenhull	4	-
Horton-by-Malpas	24	-
Horton-cum-Peel	7	-
Huxley	73	1
Iddenshall	2	-
Kelsall	270	3
King's Marsh	12	-
Larkton	10	-
Macefen	17	-
Malpas	347	2
Mouldsworth	77	1
Newton-by-Malpas	4	-
Newton-by-Tattenhall	47	1
Oldcastle	23	-
Overton	21	-
Pryors Hayes	4	-
Shocklach Church	31	-
Shocklach Oviatt	38	-
Stockton	5	-
Stretton	16	-
Tarvin	424	14
Tattenhall	239	17
Threapwood	84	-
Tilston	99	-
Tilstone Fearnall	29	-
Tiverton	147	1
Tushingham	56	-
Waverton	133	2
Wigland	33	-
Willington	34	-
Wychough	2	-
	<u>3996</u>	<u>62</u>
		(including 44 Council Houses)

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1939.

Births:-

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	121	93	214
Illegitimate	4	4	8
	<u>125</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>222</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 15.73



## Still Births

Legitimate	9
Illegitimate	-
	<u>9</u>

Rate per 1,000 live and still births 38.96.

## Deaths:-

Male	Female	Total
108	92	200

Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths) 22.

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.77.

Using a comparability factor of .90 this gives a corrected death rate of 12.39.

Number of persons dying in, or in consequence of childbirth

From Puerperal Sepsis	1
From other Puerperal causes	-
Total	<u>1</u>

## Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	5	14
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>14</u>

Infant mortality rate - i.e., deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births 63.06.

## Deaths from Certain Selected Causes.

	Males	Females
All Causes	108	92
Cancer (all ages)	17	6
Measles "	-	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Diphtheria	1	1
Influenza	3	4
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	2	2
" (respiratory)	4	2
Digestive Disorders	2	1
Nephritis	3	3
Puerperal Sepsis	-	1
Premature Birth	7	3
Senility	2	-
Suicide	-	1
Other Violence	3	1
Other defined diseases	9	11
Diabetes	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	8	11



	Males	Females
Heart Disease	37	28
Other circulatory diseases	3	8
Bronchitis	3	2
Pneumonia	4	4
Peptic Ulcer	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-
Diseases of Liver	-	-
Other respiratory diseases	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	1

Diseases of the Heart claim the largest number of deaths, viz:- 65, of which 37 were males and 28 females. This figure is 15 in excess of last year's total of 50 deaths.

Cancer takes second place with a total of 23 deaths, 4 more than in 1938.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health	W.J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.) D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	R.E.T. Chinnery, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (b),(c), (d),(e). (commenced duties 11th March 1939).
Senior Sanitary Inspector	T.H. Boden, A.R.S.I. (a)
Sanitary Inspector (part time)	A. Clayton, A.R.S.I. (a)
Junior Clerk, Health Dept.	A.E. Bloomer (commenced duties 14th August, 1939).
(a)	Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors.
(b)	" " " " Meat "
(c)	" " " " Smoke "
(d)	" " " " Sanitary Science
(e)	" " " " and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

#### (a) Laboratory facilities.

The services of the Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary are utilised for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

#### (b) Ambulance facilities.

Cases of Infectious Disease are removed to Chester City Isolation Hospital, Sealand Road, Chester, by the Hospital ambulances.

Accidents and cases of sickness are dealt with by the Chester City ambulances.

Other cases are removed to the County General Hospital at Clatterbridge, by the Hospital ambulances.

#### (c) Nursing in the Home.

There are district nurses engaged in several of the larger villages for attendance on the sick.





The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit homes in the district for purposes of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

(d) Treatment centres and Clinics, including Clinics solely for Diagnosis or consultation.

The County Council Clinics are available for residents in the area as follows:-

Malpas	Infant Welfare.
Hoole	Ante-natal and Infant Welfare.
Chester	Orthopaedic.

(e) Hospitals; Public and Voluntary.

The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are in addition, smaller cottage voluntary hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area - viz: Tarporley and Whitchurch.

Large voluntary and special hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool.

#### GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Grand total of Evacuees received  
3rd and 4th September, 1939 ..... 2850

Approx. unaccompanied school children	1,700
" accompanied children	600
" accompanying mothers or adults	368
Teachers	100
" Expectant mothers	8
" Cripples	3
" Blind Persons	1
" Official voluntary helpers	70
	<u>2,850</u>

Private Evacuees already in district from evacuable area when hostilities broke out:- 1 adult and 13 children.

At the end of the year (31st December, 1939) many evacuees had returned to their homes. The figures remaining on this date were:-

Unaccompanied children	838
Accompanied children	140
Accompanying adults and other persons	101
Teachers	67
Helpers	15
Total	<u>1,161</u>



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1. (1) WATER.

There is a piped supply to the parishes of: Ashton, Mouldsworth, Kelsall, Tarvin, Tilstone Fearnall, Tiverton, Beeston, Broxton, Burwardsley, Farndon, Churton, Carden, part of Clutton, Coddington, Aldersey, part of Waverton, Willington, Bickley, Hampton, and Malpas.

Four houses at Tarvin and four at Egg Bridge, Waverton, were provided with piped supplies during the year at the request of the Health Department.

Several samples were taken from piped supplies and from wells for both Bacteriological and Chemical examination. The piped supplies were uniformly good but many of the wells showed evidence of pollution, particularly at Tattenhall.

The whole of the district not already so provided is in urgent need of an adequate and wholesome water supply, in particular the parishes of Bruen Stapleford, Caldecott, Clotton Hoofield, Crewe-by-Farndon, Duddon, Foulk Stapleford, Golborn David, Handley, Huxley, Newtown-by-Tattenhall, Tattenhall, Shocklach Church, Shocklach Oviatt, Tilston, part of Waverton, Cuddington, Threapwood and Tushingham.

### (2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A new sewer and sewage disposal works for the township of Tattenhall was completed during the year. The full benefit of the scheme will not, however, be felt until a piped water supply is available, which will enable all premises to be drained to the sewer, and closet conversions to the water carriage system to be carried out.

Similar schemes were in hand for the parishes of Ashton, Mouldsworth, Kelsall, Tarvin, Churton, Farndon and Waverton, but the outbreak of hostilities has meant the postponement of these highly desirable improvements.

### 2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Instances of pollution of streams or watercourses continue to be discovered by, or brought to the notice of, the Health Department. Improvement is being effected by careful attention to the drainage arrangements of all new premises erected and to all schemes of redrainage or reconditioning.

A number of individual cases of pollution by drainage were dealt with during the year but the problem can only be dealt with satisfactorily, in the more populated parts of the district, by the installation of public sewers and sewerage works.

### 3. (1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Pail closets and privy-middens are converted to water closets where such action is practicable.

The approximate figures at the end of the year are as follows:-

Privy-middens	780
Pail Closets	1923
Water "	1310
	<u>4013</u>





(2) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The existing refuse collection and disposal services are far from satisfactory; an organised collection is provided by the Council in the following parishes only; house refuse being collected and disposed of by local contractors.

Fortnightly in Tarvin, Kelsall, Malpas, Farndon, Handley and Tattenhall.

Monthly in Ashton and Mouldsworth.

A scheme of Refuse Collection and Disposal by direct labour was submitted during the year to the Council, but owing to the outbreak of war it was decided that no immediate action be taken.

(3) SHOPS.

No action under the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary accommodation of shops has been found necessary during the year.

(4) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action found necessary.

(5) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in the area.

(6) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action found necessary.

4. SCHOOLS.

There is a piped water supply to Schools at Ashton, Kelsall, Tarvin, Tilstone Fearnall, Beeston and Farndon.

Tattenhall, Clutton, Hargrave, Huxley, Duddon, Tilston and Shocklach are still without a proper water supply.

Privies have been converted to pails at Edge and Farndon.

Satisfactory wash-bowls have been installed in most schools.

The surfacing of yards has been undertaken at several schools.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 211

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..... 369

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925..... 42

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..... 126



(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	42
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	169
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notice:-	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	45
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	by Owners.....	nil
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners.....	nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	275
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	by Owners.....	2
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners.....	nil
(c)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....	nil
4.	Housing Act, 1936. Part 1V. Overcrowding.	
(a)	(1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year.....	40
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein.....	40
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.....	268





(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	8
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.....	nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.....	-

(a) Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

At the end of the year the following numbers of producers were on the registers :-

Producers of Accredited Milk	398
" " T.T. "	8
Holders of Pasteurisers' Licences	2
Total number of all milk producers	528
Number of Milk retailers	28

The proportion of farms reaching the standard required for placing on the roll as Accredited Producers, 398 out of 528 + 8 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk is very satisfactory.

A large number of those remaining, however, fall a long way short of modern standards, and the inducement of the Accredited Milk scheme having, apparently, failed, the more drastic steps of action under the Milk and Dairies Orders will have to be taken to effect the necessary improvements in premises, drainage, water supply etc.

(b) Meat and Food Inspection.

There are 22 Slaughterhouses and 1 Knackers yard in the district, all subject to Annual Licence.

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 which came into force on 1st October, 1939, will enable certain unsatisfactory premises to be dealt with in a more definite manner than was possible under the old legislation.

It has not been found possible to include in this report, as required by the Ministry of Health, statistics of the animals slaughtered for food in the district, with the percentages inspected either ante or post mortem and the percentage of carcasses found either wholly or partly unfit for food.





LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE RURAL DISTRICT  
OF TARVIN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1939.

Name of sample.	Number obtained	No. adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Baking Powder	1	-
Beans in Tom. Sauce	1	-
Butter	2	-
Castor Oil	1	-
Cheese-Cheshire	1	-
Fish Cakes	1	-
Jam	1	-
Lard	1	-
Lemon Cheese	1	-
Milk	16	7
Pepper	1	-
Pineapple-Tinned	1	-
Semolina	1	-
Tomato Sauce	1	-
	<hr/> 30 <hr/>	<hr/> 7 <hr/>

ADULTERATED OR NON-STANDARD SAMPLES.

Milk	10% deficient in fat.	Seller cautioned.
"	Non-standard but pure, i.e. Abnormal.	This was an "appeal-to-cow" sample taken in Tarvin Rural District in connection with a non-standard sample obtained in a neighbouring area.
"	6.9% deficient in non-fatty solids. Abnormal.	No action taken.
"	3.0% deficient in non-fatty solids.	No action taken.
"	4% deficient in fat.	Seller cautioned.
"	Contains 28.8% extraneous water.	Seller fined £5. and ordered to pay 10/6d. costs.
"	Contains 25.0% extraneous water.	Seller fined £5 and ordered to pay 10/6d. costs.

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

The results of analysis of all samples other than milk are highly satisfactory, but the very high percentage of non-standard milk samples leaves much to be desired.

It will be seen from the table of "Adulterated or Non-Standard Samples" that in two cases a very serious amount of water had been added to the milk; this of course, is reflected in the heavy penalties imposed by the Magistrates at the subsequent hearing.



In the remaining five cases no allegation is made against the trader of any attempt to wilfully tamper with the milk. From a close study of the figures of analysis, coupled with the freezing point determination, it can be safely stated that the low quality is due to some abnormal condition in the cow or cows which produced the milk in question.

The above report has been kindly sent by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1939.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	38	20	-
Diphtheria	15	14	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	1
Pneumonia	12	-	8
Other diseases generally notifiable (Erysipelas)	3	1	-
Other diseases locally notifiable (Measles)	11	2	-
(Whooping Cough)	34	1	-





TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING YEAR 1939.

Age  
Periods

	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non- Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non- Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.....	-	-	4	2	-	-	1	1
5.....	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
15.....	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	-
25.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35.....	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
55.....	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	7	2	4	3	2	1

*W. B. Nicholls*

